

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A distribution system, comprising:  
a server holding content data and a ringing tone, and distributing said content data and said ringing tone in accordance with a distribution request for said content data; and  
5 a cellular phone transmitting the distribution request for said content data to said server, and receiving said ringing tone together with said content data from said server.
2. The distribution system according to claim 1, wherein  
said cellular phone transmits authentication data in accordance with a request for transmission of the authentication data from said server, and receives said content data and said ringing tone in response to  
5 authentication of said authentication data being verified by said server.
3. The distribution system according to claim 1, wherein  
said server extracts and regenerates a ringing tone in response to the distribution request for said content data, and transmits the regenerated ringing tone to said cellular phone, and  
5 said cellular phone transmits the distribution request for said ringing tone to said server in response to the distribution request for said ringing tone being entered.
4. The distribution system according to claim 1, wherein  
said cellular phone receives said ringing tone only when the distribution request for said ringing tone is transmitted to said server.
5. The distribution system according to claim 1, wherein  
said content data is music data, and  
said server distributes to said cellular phone, as said ringing tone, a tune related to music data for which the distribution request is issued.

6. The distribution system according to claim 1, wherein  
said content data is music data, and  
said server distributes to said cellular phone, as said ringing tone, a  
part of music data for which the distribution request is issued at least a  
predetermined number of times.

7. The distribution system according to claim 1, wherein  
said content data is music data, and  
said server distributes to said cellular phone a ringing tone  
determined based on a category to which requested music data belongs.

8. The distribution system according to claim 1, wherein  
said cellular phone receives said content data and said ringing tone  
from said distribution server while no telephone call is in progress.

9. The distribution system according to claim 1, wherein  
a user of said cellular phone only pays a price for said content data to  
said server.

10. A cellular phone receiving a ringing tone together with content  
data from a server holding said content data and said ringing tone,  
comprising:

a transmission/reception unit communicating with said server;  
a memory unit storing said content data and said ringing tone;  
a ringing tone generating unit;  
a key operation unit for entering an instruction; and  
a control unit,

said control unit transmitting a distribution request for said content  
data entered from said key operation unit to said server via said  
transmission/reception unit in response to said distribution request,  
inputting said content data and said ringing tone received via said  
transmission/reception unit into said memory unit, and setting said received  
ringing tone to said ringing tone generating unit,

15           said ringing tone generating unit generating said set ringing tone  
when said control unit receives a normal call via said transmission/reception  
unit.

11. The cellular phone according to claim 10, wherein  
said control unit reads authentication data stored in said memory  
unit in response to a request for transmission of the authentication data  
from said server, transmits the read authentication data to said server via  
5   said transmission/reception unit, and receives said content data and said  
ringing tone via said transmission/reception unit in response to  
authentication of said authentication data being verified by said server.

12. The cellular phone according to claim 10, wherein  
said control unit receives said ringing tone only when the  
distribution request for said ringing tone is transmitted to said server via  
said transmission/reception unit.

13. The cellular phone according to claim 10, further comprising:  
an output unit outputting said ringing tone to outside the cellular  
phone,  
said control unit receiving a ringing tone regenerated at said server  
5   via said transmission/reception unit, supplying the received ringing tone to  
said output unit, and transmitting the distribution request for said ringing  
tone to said server via said transmission/reception unit in response to the  
distribution request for said ringing tone being entered via said key  
operation unit.

14. The cellular phone according to claim 10, wherein  
said content data is music data, and  
said control unit receives, as said ringing tone, a tune related to  
music data for which the distribution requested is issued.

15. The cellular phone according to claim 10, wherein

said content data is music data, and  
said control unit receives, as said ringing tone, a part of music data  
for which the distribution request is issued to said server at least a  
5 predetermined number of times.

16. The cellular phone according to claim 10, wherein  
said content data is music data, and  
said control unit receives a ringing tone determined based on a  
category to which requested music data belongs.

17. The cellular phone according to claim 10, wherein  
said control unit receives said content data and said ringing tone  
while no telephone call is in progress.

18. The cellular phone according to claim 10, wherein  
said control unit reads said received ringing tone from said memory  
unit in accordance with a request for setting a ringing tone entered via said  
key operation unit, and supplies the read ringing tone to said ringing tone  
5 generating unit.

19. A distribution system, comprising:  
a cellular phone issuing a distribution request for content data,  
receiving said content data and a ringing tone, and setting said ringing tone;  
a supplier distributing said content data and said ringing tone to  
5 said cellular phone in response to the distribution request for said content  
data from said cellular phone; and  
a content provider providing said supplier with said content data,  
a user of said cellular phone pays only a price for said content data to  
said supplier,  
10 said supplier pays a price for said content data to said content  
provider, and receives an advertisement expense and a sales commission for  
said content data from said content provider.